

# **The Bell Ringer**

Montgomery Bell Academy

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## MBA Seniors Look to Defend State Title

by Sumeet Vaikunth

Seven members of MBA's first class of the 21st century awaited the final horn of the JV game to sound. When it did, they all put their hands upon each other's, and Evan Abrahams led the chant of "unos, dos, tres, Grande Rojo!!" An hour later, the chants of "Moses, Moses" foreshadowed its coming, and when it did come, a title wave of shouts and cheers erupted from an already rowdy student section.

Though it did not even count because of a foul before the shot, Moses Osemwegie's thunderous dunk that left the goal rocking for five seconds afterwards capped off MBA's biggest win of the year. The Father Ryan Fighting Irish, who came in with a smiling swagger and an impressive record, left the newly renovated Brownlee O. Currey, Jr. Gymnasium disappointed and beaten.

In a game characterized by tough defense, big shots, and the intensity and competitiveness found only in a MBA-Father Ryan game, the Big Red were down after the first quarter but took a slim lead into halftime. The Irish fought

back, however, and big shots from Billy May, Michael Hite, and Rodney Griffin made the game

36-36 in the final seconds of the third quarter. Ingle Martin, in his best offensive performance of the season, dribbled the ball down court and took his man into the lane and hit a jumper before the buzzer ended the quarter. The Irish never recovered from there as Steve Ingram led MBA's pressure defense to cause Ryan to make errant passes which led to turnovers and steals.

MBA capitalized with fastbreak points and slips off screens and backdoor cuts as Father Ryan created offense for the Big Red by pressuring

the ball and not recovering in time to stop MBA from scoring. In a terribly close game, the Big Red won by ten, 59-49.

The 2000-2001 basketball team might be the smallest in the last decade of MBA basketball, but the seven seniors comprising the Varsity team are one of the most athletic teams MBA has seen. Mathew Bills and Ingle Martin are the point guards, Moses Osemwegie and Dominique Morris the post players, Evan Abrahams and Carter Henderson the shooters, and Steve Ingram the fill in the blank on the stat sheet forward. When these

seven seniors have all been present at a game, the Big Red have not lost this

season.

Too many times, however, official visits and illness have kept one or more players away from the game. The team played at MLK, a top ten team in Class AA, and lost in December without Ingle Martin, but on January 9th, the full team beat MLK soundly at home, though MLK did not have one of their starters due to illness.

Similarly and more recently, the Big Red beat the Brentwood Academy Eagles by 13 on January 3rd, but lost last a few weeks later by ten without Moses or Dominique.

Another significant game that MBA would have presumably won if not for the loss of Ingle Martin, Moses Osemwegie, and Carter Henderson was against the 1st ranked team in Class A, Pickett County. Dominique Morris had a career high 35 points and juniors Charlie Nelson, David Was, Tate Jackson, and sophomore Jeffrey Hollis filled in with a good effort, but the Big Red lost by four after having a lead in

(continued on page 5)

## Bush and Cheney Usher in a New Era

by Michael Pass

On January 20, 2001, the beginning of a new era began. George W. Bush took the oath of office and was sworn in as the 43rd president of the United States of America. The road Bush came down to become our 43rd president was undoubtedly the most contested and bitterly fought road ever taken by a U.S. president. Many reporters, politicians, and average citizens believed and do believe that Bush represents a strongly divided country.

As the weeks have elapsed, however, since the battle in Florida, public interest in the election has dwindled. Public interest in Bush and what he's doing in office has all but vanished. It appears that people just don't care who is in office as long as the economy remains strong and as long as their personal lives are not effected.

So if people don't care, why was the Florida election so passionately debated by all sorts of people? Now that the whole circus is a little behind us, a close look might reveal that people got so interested in politics because it was a good source of drama, not because of any deep convictions for either of the candidates. The 2000 presidential election was no different than any other kind of

entertainment. It was simply a media event that got people's attention. The

personal interest stories as portrayed by the media propelled the hype: George Bush's brother is the governor of Florida, Jesse Jackson protesting in Palm Beach, and who couldn't pay attention to Catherine Harris vs. the Florida Supreme Court.

The country is not divided. Prosperity is abundant. Yes, people got behind either Al Gore or George Bush and they voted for their favorite.

People voted for the candidate that people like them traditionally voted for.

The rich and the rural voted for Bush, and the urban working class voted for Gore. Tradition drove this election, not any particular issues. Sure, abortion, gun control, and public education were talked about. But none of these issues were divisive enough or important enough for a large number of people to vote against the party they have traditionally been affiliated with.



George W. Bush and Dick Cheney look forward to running the country as Vice-President and President.

People want to care. Americans want to be involved in the governing process. Americans chose their party and their candidate and went out there and supported their guy. They did it out of duty and a feeling of responsibility, not because something desperately important was at stake on the ballot.

For now, things in America are running pretty smoothly for the most part. The country split their votes for Republicans and Democrats because there really didn't seem to be a truly compelling reason to vote for a particular candidate. When the economy plummets or we got involved in an enormous war, people will start to really care again. One leader will emerge and I guarantee the vote will not be split.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

News.....	2-3
News Briefs.....	2
Sports.....	4-7
Entertainment....	8-9
Opinions.....	10

## Debate Team Hosts Southern Bell, Does More Village Pillaging

by Paul Johnson

Since you last begrudgingly read the debate article while in some class (let's be honest here people, why else would you read it?), much has happened in the world of speech and debate. That small building behind the library is not a factory that produces gas-guzzling cars, but a virtual sweatshop for debate work. OK, so maybe I'm exaggerating a little bit. But we have been doing a fair amount of work lately.

Before we could go compete at any tournaments, we had to run the Southern Bell Forum, one of the most prestigious high school debate tournaments in the country. This year's winner was Edgemoor, from New York.

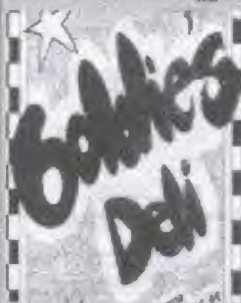
After working hard to keep the Southern Bell meeting smoothly, we suffered through events and then went a contingent down to the University of Alabama tournament. Strong performances by the novices were the highlight of that weekend.

The weekend after that, our merry band of competitors traveled to some Birmingham (don't everybody get jealous now) to compete at the Sanford tournament. Most unfortunately, that is no typo, we went to Sanford, not Stanford. The units of Trey Tolly and Jamie Carroll (effectively known as Woody, Josh Rosenblatt and Ian McDaniel, and Dabois Franklin and David McNassee (Dabois's son of out of retirement) all advanced to the quarterfinals before losing on some tough luck decisions.

After returning from Sanford, the team worked diligently to prepare for the Baskley Forum at Emory. Despite their valiant efforts, the units of Paul Johnson and Trey Tolly, and Scott Lawton and Ian McDaniel both were 3-3. Overreacher Jonathan "Lucky's Mier" Mier cleared in the quarterfinals in a very competitive field.

Next stop for the MBA Debate team is the district qualifying tournaments at BGA.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Four MBA Seniors Sign With Division I Schools

Congratulations to Jagle Martin, Dominique Smith, Moses Osewagle, and Hubby Smith, who all signed with Division I football teams. Jagle signed with the University of Florida, Moses and Dominique signed with Vanderbilt University, and Hubby signed with Southern Methodist University.

Martin has been Tennessee's most heavily recruited high school football player this season. After considering the University of Tennessee, Louisiana State University, and the University of Virginia, Jagle finally chose Florida because of its academic excellence, strong tradition, and ability to win a national championship.

### Government Club Heating Up With New Guest Speakers

On February 6, John Ingle, a death penalty expert and author, delivered a powerful speech to students and teachers attending the Government Club meeting. The Government Club looks forward to upcoming Public Debates focusing on the Death Penalty, Confederate Symbols, and Public Education.

The Government Club meets every other Tuesday night from seven o'clock till eight. Listen for announcements about future guest speakers.

### Eton Sends Three Students to MBA

Three students from Eton College, a prestigious English boarding

school, arrived in Nashville a week ago and began taking classes at MBA on February 5. The English students, Humphrey, James, and Jay, are staying with the families of MBA students. Humphrey is staying with William Sire's family, James is staying with Debra Jackson's family, and Jay is staying with Ross Johnson's family. They will be at MBA for another ten days.

Meanwhile, MBA's Junior class President Andy Gay is in England taking classes at Eton. Andy, who left for Eton shortly before first semester exams, will return to MBA after spring break. Look for an article from Andy about his Eton experience in the next issue of *The Bell Curve*.

### Steve Spurrier to Speak at MBA's Father Son Dinner

MBA has announced that the keynote speaker at this year's father son dinner will be the University of Florida's Head Football Coach, Steve Spurrier. The dinner will be held Monday, February 26 at 6:30.

This is not the first time MBA has welcomed someone famous for his exploits on the football field to speak at the Father Son dinner. In 1988, Archie Manning who starred at the College and Pro level, gave the keynote address.

### M B A ' s Basketball Team Enters Crunch Time

This is the time Coach Bowers has pointed to all season when the Big Red Basketball team must play good basketball. This Friday night at 8:00 the Big Red travel to Foster Ryan for the final regular season. Then on the following Monday, on which MBA has no school, the Big Red will likely travel to USN for the Region Tournament. The basketball team would appreciate your supporting these weekend games.

## The Lockerbie Trial Comes to a Close

by Christopher Schuller

It began thirteen years ago when a Pan-Am Boeing 747 carrying passengers bound for New York exploded over the village of Lockerbie, Scotland. Two hundred fifty-nine people were killed as the plane exploded 31,000 feet in the air above Scotland, and seven more people died on the ground.

As an investigation ensued over the next two years, the British Civil Aviation Authority eventually determined in July 1990 that the crash was caused by an explosive device. A manhunt immediately began for the men responsible, and American and British investigation forces focused on two suspected Libyan intelligence agents, Abel Baset Ali Mohamed Al-Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhima.

On May 3, 2000, the trial began, twelve years after the explosion over Lockerbie. Over the next eight months, prosecutors called more than 250 witnesses, generating thousands of pages of evidence and a three-million-word trial transcript.

Despite a few delays and the length of the trial, the three Scottish judges, Lord Randal Iain Sutherland, Lord John Taylor Cameron (Lord Coulsfield), and Lord Randal Norman Munro MacLean (along with their backup judge, Lord Abernathy, or John Alstair Cameron), digested loads of evidence and cross-examinations. The defense chose to call only three witnesses, and the trial concluded for deliberations on January 18, 2001.

After thirteen years of legal

**In eight months, prosecutors called more than 250 witnesses, generating thousands of pages of evidence and a three-million-word trial transcript.**

On November 13, 1991, the two were indicted on 270 counts of murder and violation of British aviation security laws. The Libyan government immediately refused to hand the pair over for trial in a Scottish court, and economic and travel sanctions from the U.N. Security Council soon followed, first in April of 1992 and then again in November of 1993. By March of 1994, Libya had conceded to trying the suspects in a neutral site with an international panel of judges, but American and British authorities were unsatisfied.

It was not until December 16, 1998, after everything from U.S. Appeals Court decisions to visits to Libyan leader Col. Moammar Gadhafi from Kofi Annan that Libya finally agreed to release the suspects for trial in Holland under Scottish law with Scottish judges. On April 5, 1999, Libya handed the two men over to the U.N., which promptly delivered them to the Netherlands, where they were to stand trial.

wrangling, millions of words of trial testimony, and a scant two weeks of deliberation, the three judges rendered their verdict on January 31, 2001: Mr Al-Megrahi was found guilty, and Mr Fhima was acquitted. Even though defense lawyers have launched an immediate appeal, Mr Al-Megrahi will remain in a special detention facility with a television that runs Arabic TV channels and an exercise bike, while his partner Fhima is free to return to Libya.

After the appeals process is finished (the verdict's reversal is not expected), Mr Al-Megrahi will be moved to the famous Bar-L prison outside of Glasgow, a notoriously tough Scottish detention facility where he will work for five days a week along with the Bar-L's 850-plus inmates, as Scottish law requires. Clearly, the Lockerbie verdict has sent a clear message to the at-large terrorists in the rest of the world: it may not be swift, but justice at the hands of a united international community is inevitable.



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## The XFL Catching Sports Fan's Attention

by John Eason

Technology has finally come too far. Do we really need a microphone on every player and coach on the field? Do we need camera men running onto the field between plays to get a close-up of the huddle for the die hard WWF fans at home?

The XFL has now ruined the glory of football and competition in sports. It has stooped to the likes of *Temptation Island* and *The Mole*. I was hoping sports would not become a part of these worthless reality shows that make money off teenagers with nothing to do with their time. But Vince McMahon has now done it.

Football has always been a game where the players come before the fans. The fans are just there to watch the talent of the players playing the game. But the XFL is the true fans league. Its main goal is to make sure every "Rock" fan enjoys the game and is entertained. The players are like dummies who are told what to say and how to act by McMahon. They are treated with no medical coverage, which is not very appealing in a league where there are no extra points, no coin tosses, and no fair catches.

However, Jesse Ventura has an explanation for all these new rules: he says the XFL is making football the way

it used to be played. I am sure Dick Butkas or Walter Payton would be love to be interviewed by one of the XFL's endless supply of onfield

out something we sports fans like to call, college football. College football is where you hear Keith Jackson instead Jesse Ventura. No offense to Jesse "The

games are in "The Horseshoe", "The Big House", or "Death Valley", not Las Vegas or Memphis. There is passion in the great rivalries such as UCLA-USC, Michigan-Ohio State, or the classic Vols- Dores matchup.

Certain parts of the XFL show that it is truly a joke, whether it is the fact they do not have to have their names on the back of their jerseys (leaving kids to know there favorite players only as "He Hate Me") or the fact that they have the players introduce themselves in front of the camera with "I'd like to give to shout out to Joey back in Kansas....." There was only one guy who announce his name and college and then was ready to strap it up and play the game. All the other players blabber on for a minute on how they are going to knock this guy out or score this touchdown. Just Shut Up! Play the game for once.

I know that the XFL will probably be a huge success even if they get half of the wrestling fans and some football fans. Vince McMahon knows it too. He is a hyena out looking for money no matter how badly he has to degrade a glorious game. I hope in the end college football will be inspiration to both the NFL (e.g. Ray Lewis) and the XFL.



The XFL defines itself from the NFL and its other rival football leagues with new rules, new cameral angles, an governor commentator, and a whole lot of flash

reporters in the middle of the game. If this were a serious league with teams looking to win, then why do we here every play they run in the huddle or every pep talk from the coach in the locker room. If you want entertainment and competition wrestling fans, check

Body" Ventura or Jerry "The King" Lawler, but they don't know a thing about football (they are just there for the wrestling fans).

In college football, you get the Crimson Tide and the Nittany Lions instead of the Outlaws and Enforcers. The

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## Year 2001 Has Been A Letdown For Titans

by Ryan Mirian

Farewell 2000! Oh what a temptress you were! Empty was your threat of Y2K. Disappointing was the realization that it was not really the millennium (Thanks a lot Dr. Neergard). Heartbreaking was the Titans second-place finish (Don't even remind me).

All Tennesseans thought that 2001 would be the year for redemption and a world championship. How super the let down was when the Titans lost for only the second time ever at Adelphia on January 14! What's more, they lost to the Ravens, a bunch of thugs that seemed to salivate at the opportunity to play dirty.

guy that has no apparent athletic ability can start for a world championship team? I guess that means I can play in the NFL too.

Maybe a team that goes 13-3, has more Pro Bowl players than any other team, and ranks first in the NFL in defense doesn't deserve to win the Super Bowl. And maybe that last sentence was just plain stupid. The Titans deserve nothing more than to watch a highlight tape of this just-completed football season. I know, they could include all the field goals Al Del Greco missed. They could show McNair's inability to throw consistently downfield. They could take a picture of

all the money they wasted on Carl Pickens. They could frame the playbook that lets Eddie George run up the middle thirty times a game, even when it never works. Yep, that tape would definitely be a bestseller among all Titans fans.

Seeing the Titans play this year was about as much fun as taking the SATs, or better yet, passing a kidney stone. So, what's going to happen next year? Are the Titans going to go undefeated



Eddie George consoles Eddie Robison as their 24-10 playoff loss to the Baltimore Ravens comes to an end

How could a team with such talent, such promise, such an advantage fall in their first playoff game? Maybe they were intimidated by the chance to play most of their playoff games at home. Maybe they were too afraid of losing to the Ravens one more time at Adelphia. Maybe 2001 just wasn't the year.

So how could this season have been any worse? Oh, that's right, the Ravens won the Super Bowl. A team that has a 342-pound guy that runs the forty yard dash in 23 seconds won the biggest football game of the year? A

in the regular season and choke again in the playoffs? Is Adelphia going to become a somber setting for a dearth of fans to "enjoy" football next year? Are the Titans going to waste more money on players that do absolutely nothing? Anyone ready for some football?

One more chance, that's all you have to redeem yourself 2001. Nothing short of a Super Bowl victory will make up for the pain you put us through this year. You could be the greatest year in Titans' football history, or you could just give all Titans fans one more giant brain hemorrhage.

## MBA Seniors' Quest For Title

Continued from p. 1

the third quarter.

A concurrent pattern with the losses when the team does not have all its players is a dismal record on the road. On neutral courts, the team is 2-0 and at home the Big Red is a perfect 6-0. On the road, however, MBA is only 3-6, winning against sub-par teams such as Hillsboro, University School of Nashville, and Henry County. It seems that the Big Red have the potential to be win the state tournament in March and possibly win the rest of its games this season as everyone will hopefully be healthy.

Many of the Big Red's wins have come against low caliber teams, but MBA will find out how good it really is with the three last games of the season: a home game against Class AAA #3 Columbia Central High School, a road game at Class AAA #5 White County, and a February 16th rematch at Father Ryan High School. If the Big Red wins these three games at the end of the year, the Big Red will prove it can play great defense, and in turn defend its state championship from any Eagles or Irish that try to take it away from those seven seniors.

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## MBA Lacrosse: We Rule Hard Core

by Zach Wall

It's time for another grueling season on the deadly gridiron that is... the lacrosse field.

As it has been for many years of the lacrosse teams dignified and glorious history, lax players are walking with a little more jump in their step (actually, it's more like a frolic) and have a look of intense determination in awaiting this monumental season. All of the players are ready to get down to business under the leadership of "Speedy" Clay Brown, and plan to stay focused and determined throughout the season (even with the distracting tomfoolery of bratty little Mathew McIntosh).

After I asked Mathew what his plans were for the season, he

replied, "I'm really only playing to score for myself and could care less about the rest of the team." Mathew then hobbled away on his gimp ankle which will keep

him and his c o c k y attitude of the field for a few weeks.

McIntosh joins several other Seniors as captains of this superstar team. Actually, we have more captains than I can list on my toes, so I won't list them for you. Jeff Scobie, the self-proclaimed "baller" of the team finally got

himself a new and functional stick and also wanted me to say something about his being one of the only non-captain

seniors.

The team is looking fresh and vibrant, with almost a full starting roster

returning from last year's third place season, including All-State Team members Russell McWhirter, the Liles twins, "Show off" McIntosh, and the heart and soul of seriousness that embodies this team, Adam Brooks.

Trying to climb the national ranking chart from our position at 278<sup>th</sup>, only 277 teams to go, our tough schedule has the potential to put us in the top 20. And, as usual, the team is as excited as ever about wasting their Spring Break playing lacrosse

against higher caliber teams in the dreary climate of Durham, North Carolina

My teammates and I are fully confident in our team's potential. We are so confident, in fact, that Scobie, the Liles, and I have decided that since we can score so easily we're gonna slap around the other team to put on a show for the crowd (it'll be a blood bath). Prepare yourself for the most flamboyantly tacky and cockiest team in high-contact sports today. WE RULE



Zach Wall says that he will be the lacrosse team's leading star



Sophomore Cyrus Adams has already logged a lot of playing time

P.S. Zach Wall, football stud and ladies man, will be

the star of this season. P.P.S. All or none of this article may be true.

## College Basketball Full of Surprises as March Nears

by John Eason

As we head into rivalry month, this is without a doubt one of the most unpredictable years of college basketball ever. Who can tell who has a chance to get to the Final Four, with teams like Tennessee, who beat number eight Syracuse on the road by thirteen, getting beat by Virginia by twenty and then Virginia losing to Duke by forty? The Top 25 is as unpredictable as ever right now, except for Duke and Stanford.

One of the main reasons for this mess is the toughness of winning on the road in any conference this year. Whether the game is Tennessee vs. Kentucky, Duke vs. Stanford, Michigan State vs. Indiana, or Mississippi State vs. Ole Miss, there are no sure victories for the favorites on the road. This March there could quite possibly be teams on the bubble who rightfully should be in the NCAA tournament. Instead, some of these teams will have nothing to do but head out to Fresno State or Nebraska to see if they can make it through the heralded NIT.

With this in mind, the NCAA

will look at strength of schedule and RPI a whole lot this year in determining who

gets in and who does not. So if you are in the SEC or Big XII, you should have high hopes, but if you are in the WAC, count on the NIT. Teams such as Georgia or UCLA, who have good strength of schedules, but multiple losses, are still ranked seventh and thirteenth respectively in the RPI. A team like Georgetown, who is 17-2 this year, will not be seeded as highly in the tournament and will suffer a lot tougher journey through the brackets because it is playing in the weak Big East. All in all, during the final stretch

in February, the selection committee better be planning ahead to get ready for the tough choices they are going to have to make come mid-March.

As for players of the year to look out for, they all come from the best conference in all the land, the Atlantic Coast Conference. Jason Williams of Duke is proving this year that he is the top point guard in the country and possibly the player of the year. He is averaging 21.3 points, 6.1 assists, and 1.8 steals a game along with shooting 47% from beyond the arc. Shane Battier of Duke is also having a great year with 19.5 points,

2.1 steals, 1.9 blocks, and 6.0 rebounds a game. Joseph Forte and Jason Richardson are other big names to look out for as players of the year. Forte is averaging 20.7 points, 5.3 rebounds, 3.5 assists, and 2.0 steals a game. Richardson, Michigan State's explosive swingman, is shooting 45% from 3-point range and 57% from the field and averaging 15.7 points and 6.1 rebounds a game.

As the NCAA tournament comes closer, there are some definite sleeper teams out there who could wind up being the Wisconsin, Tulsa, or Pepperdine of this year. Gonzaga is once again one of the top sleepers to look for in March. Gonzaga is now a healthy team and will need an automatic bid to get in. Look out for Casey Calvary who scores 20 points a game. The College of Charleston, Utah State, and Western Kentucky are also looking to see if they can be this year's Cinderella.

Get ready for a wild end to a crazy season. Duke is my pick to win it all.



Jason Williams, Duke's talented point guard, will lead the team through March Madness

## Can *Hannibal* Live Up to All of the Hype

by Jamie Sperring

"Commandante Pazzi, I am giving serious thought to eating your wife."

Just one of the classic, memorable Hannibal Lecter lines from Ridley Scott's thrilling sequel to *Silence of the Lambs*, *Hannibal*, both of which are based on the novels by Thomas Harris. *Silence of the Lambs*, the movie which made Hannibal Lecter a household name, followed the path of FBI agent Clarice Starling as she tracked down a

born a psychotic, homicidal maniac who with the help of convicted and incarcerated psychotic, homicidal, cannibal, psychopath Dr. Hannibal Lecter, the first movie ends with Hannibal Lecter escaping from custody and fleeing the country as Agent Starling's boss



In the newly released *Hannibal*, Julianne Moore plays FBI agent Clarice Starling better than Jodie Foster did in *Silence of the Lambs*.

and kills the maniacal wannabe. *Hannibal* picks up several years after *Silence of the Lambs*. Dr. Lecter (Anthony Hopkins... and I say mean, now a doctor in Florence living under an assumed name, comes to hear of Clarice Starling's (Julianne Moore-The Fugitive) fall from favor with the FBI after a failed drug bust which resulted in Starling shooting and killing the female head of the drug operation, who also happened to be a mother. Starling strikes a deal with the FBI to return to the Hannibal Lecter case, track down Lecter, and arrest him. However, Mason Verger, Lecter's sixth victim and the only one still alive, has other plans. Seeking revenge, he adds the unknown Agent Starling to tracking him down, though with other

visions then arrest in mind. After some time in unfruitful research, Starling receives a letter from Lecter concerning her fall from favor, her return to the Lecter case, and Hannibal's own return from retirement.

The movie itself, which opened this past Friday, Feb. 9, unlike the original *SOTL*, is based more on Hannibal than it is Clarice, tracking his path from Florence, Italy back home to the U.S. The movie deviates from

Harris's novel on a few points, including the ending, but these deviations are a key nothing away from the plot, and it fact, it my opinion, work better than the plot of the book. The book has a strong sense of dualistic psychosis, but while the movie, though it does hold onto the slight romance between Lecter and

Starling, tones down the romantic feeling and centers more on the mutual respect between the two characters.

*Hannibal* the movie is not for the faint of heart; however, in the hands of the actors in this weekend unified to. Filled with a good amount of gore, suspense, and criticism, the movie is far more grotesque than *SOTL*. However, if one doesn't mind the sight of blood and enjoys jumping out of his seat every once in a while, this movie is a must see. Those who would proclaim that *Hannibal* falls far short of expectations, including our own concerned Tennessee movie critics, should open their eyes, smell the gore, and get their heads out of their posterior, if you'll pardon my French. *Hannibal* not only exceeded my

expectations, but also had me on the edge of my seat and dreaming for more the entire 135 minutes of this suspense thriller.

Some have criticized Julianne Moore, saying that she could not possibly live up to Jodie Foster's portrayal of Agent Starling, but this is not so. Moore not only gives an incredible performance, but also, unlike Foster, manages to speak with a believable southern accent. Sir Hopkins himself once again manages to stir a sense of respect and sympathy for Hannibal into the hearts of the audience

while, at the same time, manages to stir the contents of their stomachs as well. This could very well be another Oscar winning performance for Hopkins.

In essence, if you see one movie this month, let it be *Hannibal*, for anything less would just be... uncivilized. So my fellow students, I leave you with some words of wisdom from our favorite cannibal: "Guts in or guts out. I'll leave it up to you." Confused? Then I'll decide for you. Rated R for strong, gruesome violence, some nudity, and language.

## The Bell Ringer

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## "Music with the Stars" Hosted by Carrabba's Benefits Fine Arts Department

by Thompson Paine

Our main course, the fourth of this unbelievable meal, came when I was just about at the point of abdominal explosion. My taste buds, already beginning to rest with the satisfaction of a full stomach and more than content with the three fabulous servings of food up to that point, were soon jumping again as the entrée was served.

"I can't eat anymore," I thought aloud.

"Come on, wuss," said the good-looking blond across from me. "Your gonna have to do more than that to impress this date."

The first course was a basket of bread, literally straight out of the oven; the second, a plate of succulent kalimari; the third, a hot bowl of a mouth-watering Italian soup; my date...the lovely Tee Tompkins. My main and final course was a spectacular dish called Pasta Carrabba. This plate consists of a large portion of fettuccine alfredo pasta with tender strips of baked chicken, mushrooms, and other delicious ingredients.

So why I am going on and on about this incredible meal I enjoyed a week and half ago? Because the restaurant that made this great evening

possible for me did the same for about 200 friends of Montgomery Bell Academy at Monday night's "Music with the Stars."

The night kicked off with

of Carrabba's staff actually volunteered themselves individually.

Finally at 8:00, the show began as a trio of renowned musicians celebrated MBA through music. The

awards; Mike Reid, All-Pro defensive tackle of the Cincinnati Bengals turned hit musician and songwriter, who has received two Grammys and distinction as ASCAP's Writer of the Year (1985);

and Suzy Bogguss, who among other things performed and produced "Take It To the Limit" on CMA's Award-winning Album of the Year.

Adding to this entertainment were MBA's very own Michael DeBruyn, who played the cello, and the theatrical duo of Dr. Cal Fuller and senior John Voigt who performed an scene from "A Cat on a Hot



(Left to Right) Barbara Mandrell, Suzy Bogguss, and Mike Reid, three widely recognized and renowned performers, helped celebrate MBA through music Monday night.

appetizers in the Gibbs Room. Next was dinner, which quite possibly could have been the main attraction of the night for some. Carrabba's provided for the event servers, salads, bread, dinner, dessert, and a clean-up crew. And what's more they did it all *for free!*

Bob Frey, a regional director of the restaurant, spoke with me about their undertaking of this event. Carrabba's is steadily becoming a part of the Nashville community, and it is the belief of Carrabba's that as a given function of the relationship between restaurant and community, something should be given back. This unique attitude is really what made the evening possible, as members

cast was as follows: Barbara Mandrell, winner of seventy-five major awards including CMA "Female Vocalist of the Year," CMA "Entertainer of the Year" (twice), and nine "People's Choice"

Tin Roof."

The event was expected to raise about \$20,000, when all was said and done, which will go directly to the MBA Fine Arts Department.

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## THE BURKHALTER



## Snatch: A Fast Paced British Mobster Movie

by Will Choppin

Writer-director Guy Ritchie's latest flick *Snatch* is violent, very fun to watch, and very, very British. Like his debut *Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels*, it provides an intriguing look into the British underground: a world of crime, jewelry, and severely British accents. While some may feel intimidated by the outstanding wits and styles possessed by the British, there are three prominent reasons to see the movie *Snatch*.

See *Snatch* for its appealing plot structure. More and more movies are emerging with more complex plots that have several stories, sometimes intertwining and other times not. Two such movies are *Traffic* and *Magnolia*, both of which are incredible because of their plot structures.

*Snatch* covers boxing and diamonds. The boxing subplot is about two people involved in setting up a fixed boxing match. These two people seek One Punch Mickey, played by Brad Pitt, to be in a boxing match, where he will lose in the fourth round by predetermined plan. The only problem is that Mickey can't both fight and lose,

because he takes a man down after one punch. In the complementary diamond

excellent movie.

See *Snatch* because of Benicio

Del Toro and Brad Pitt, the centers of each story. Benicio Del Toro's character, Franky Four Fingers, is a swindler, a gambler, and has but four fingers on one hand. He has stolen a diamond from Belgium and fled to London with it handcuffed to his wrist. Brad Pitt plays Mickey O'Neil, notorious for needing to swing only one punch to win a boxing match. Ritchie has character an

outrageous trait of speaking in a dialect that no one can understand, which is very funny to hear. They never share a scene together, but being the cool actors that they are, they enhance the quality and enjoyment of their separate scenes and stories.

See *Snatch* because of its lack of Hollywood influence. Most movie producers today care only about ticket sales and stars. Luckily, there are the independent films, like *Snatch*, *Go*, and *Being John Malkovich*, that weren't made with large budgets (*Snatch* was made for only \$6 million) and that gives moviegoers better acting, writing, and directing. Unless you need three hours of a computer animated ship sinking in order to be amused, *Snatch* is the way to go.

I have heard that *Snatch* almost too closely resembles Ritchie's previously film, *Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels*, with the same aura of gangster names and British underground. That piece of information does not affect my opinion of *Snatch* at all, because I have not seen the other movie. According to the Ostrich Syndrome: If you don't see it, it isn't there.



*Snatch*, Guy Ritchie's follow up to *Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*, boasts such big name actors as Brad Pitt and so far has done very well at the box office

have intertwined well to make an written for Pitt's character an

## Traffic: A Look at America's Drug War

by Ted Tywang

Review of *Traffic* by Ted Tywang  
WARNING: If you are looking for a movie that will leave you feeling happy, triumphant, or inspired, avoid *Traffic*, starring Michael Douglas and Catherine-Zeta Jones, at all costs. However, if you are looking to be shocked, challenged, and above all made to think about the world that is drugs, then *Traffic* is definitely a must-see. The movie, based on the mini-series "Traffik," was filmed in a unique and rarely seen style. The film consists of three central color coded plots. (Don't ask about the color-coded plots, just go see the movie.) In the movie we meet two Mexican cops, (Benicio Del Toro and Jacob Vargas) who somehow in an effort to overthrow the Mexican drug cartel get drawn into the whole corrupt mess themselves. We also encounter a millionaire drug dealer who is carted off to jail after being caught. His pregnant wife, (Catherine-Zeta Jones), previously oblivious to her husbands illegal activities, takes over his drug-selling and money-laundering

in order to support her family. Finally, the main character of the story is Judge Robert Wakefield (Michael Douglas),

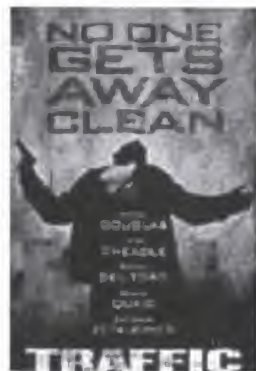
who has recently been appointed as the new official drug czar of the United States. It is Wakefield's story that hits home the hardest, because he eventually realizes that those he is fighting against and those he is fighting to protect are one and the same person-his daughter. The daughter free-bases cocaine with her prep school friends throughout the movie. To the blind eye, all of these characters

common.

However, in this documentary-style film, which is alarmingly realistic, they are bound together by the deadly plague of drugs, that can attack in the solid, liquid, or gaseous form. In this movie, the acting is superb, with both Douglas and Del Toro giving compelling performances. There has been immense Oscar hype around this film, with much speculation around both a best director and best picture nod.

Now, personally, I don't know if the movie is that good, but there is one other aspect of the film that I

about drugs which preceded it, *Traffic* does not attempt to preach. It does not shout, "DON'T DO DRUGS." (However, I will add that if you do drugs after seeing this movie, you are a certified idiot.) In fact, the message in *Traffic* isn't really clear. The viewer is allowed to make what he wants from it. I guess what I took from it is that adults shouldn't fight the drug underworld itself, for that is much too hefty of a task. Adults should instead fight drugs in their homes and in their individual families. Once again, it should be emphasized that this film is very unlike typical, main-stream Hollywood and is not really meant as a means of entertainment. Its intention is to make one think about drugs, the world surrounding drugs, and just about life in general. In that department, *Traffic* is immensely successful and is definitely worth seeing, because, for better or for worse, it definitely makes one think.



*Traffic* boasts such big Hollywood names as Catherine-Zeta Jones, Michael Douglas, Selma Hayek, and Dennis Quaid, and Benicio Del Toro

have nothing in really liked. Unlike most of the films

## The Age

by Chris Smith

You may ask how drinking and war relate. More specifically you may ask how war relates to the drinking age.

If President George W. Bush were to let the Middle East conflict escalate into a war, many young men and women, some possibly graduates of M.B.A., would be commissioned to fight. Interestingly some of these brave soldiers would not be able to have a beer for their troubles. Why is this? An eighteen year old American citizen can vote, smoke, dip, be tried and punished as an adult (as he is one) in the courts, kill for his country, see an R-rated movie in theaters, stay out as late as he wants, and engage in many other forms of behavior that, while legal, cannot be mentioned in *The Godfather*. It hardly seems rational that a citizen must be twenty-one to drink but only eighteen to smoke. These laws seem to be backwards. Cigarettes kill people. 400,000 a year. 1,200 people died today from the use of cigarettes. Alcohol is just not that lethal. But an MBA student eighteen years or older can smoke himself retarded. The government seems to have furnished a more hazardous substance for alcohol. Is this with good intentions?

Alcohol is only problematic when consumed in large quantities or when the consumer becomes drunk. At this point he is more accident prone. But would teenagers consume alcohol illegally if they were not conditioned so rigorously to believe that it was bad? It is the natural reaction of the angry young man, and there are lots at M.B.A., to do what he knows is wrong simply because it is. In most European countries the drinking age is 18, and in some countries there is no age at all. Under-age drinking is not much of an issue in those countries because the authority figures do not make it one. As order increases, so does the natural tendency toward disorder. Between 1970 and 1975, most states had drinking ages of eighteen. I have researched some theories and seen some statistics. I have come to the conclusion that the age was raised only because the Vietnam War was dying down. All the hippies were going home and joining the system. And in the middle of it all, a stupid law was passed by a less than intelligent government. At the dawn of this new millennium, why don't we see if lowering the drinking age will work? Alcohol doesn't kill people, drinking and driving does.

I personally in no way support or encourage under age drinking. I am simply asking you to consider why the age is 21 instead of 18.

## MBA Encourages Slackers

by Partick Lewis

After a long day at school, how many MBA students work to go home and work? Add to that an activity after school. There are very few who want to work really hard. My point is that the average M.B.A. student goes home, eats dinner and relaxes, due to the amount of work that he has to endure during the day. Then he must do his homework.

I'm not going to criticize the workload, in fact I'm going to praise it. I know this doesn't sound right, but it is.

MBA plans to prepare its students for both college and life. It does, but not only in the expected ways. MBA may teach some students to work diligently with no

laughable results, but must know that this hard work could easily amount to nothing in later life. I believe that MBA unknowingly prepares a student to succeed by doing just enough to make his goals. Every night, the average

get everything done.

MBA teaches us that the person working extremely hard often does no better than the person who watches TV all night. In later life, often the hard worker doesn't do as well as

the slacker. The world is unfair. The intelligent person sees what he must do, and does a good enough job to get by and still have time for other things. With stress, kids, priorities etc., people don't have enough time to do their workload completely in depth. At MBA, it is the same way.

So, if you are a hard worker, don't stop because you read this. You may succeed because of your diligence. You may not. MBA doesn't intend for its work to be an overbearing that it steals the life out of you. It teaches you to compromise.

**MBA teaches us that the person working extremely hard often does no better than the person who watches TV all night.**

student looks at his workload and decides what he will and won't do. Because of TVs, computers and phones, the student does not put homework at the top of his list. Therefore, he must prioritize. Whether it is to skip the reading, the written assignment that the teacher won't pick up or something else, every student doesn't do some of his work. There just isn't enough time to

## The World According to Michael Ross

by Michael Ross

### TV Shows

*The West Wing*: this show is simply the Hollywood Left's ego trip. With mind-bogglingly blatant attacks on conservatism, this one-hour show celebrates the fact that most people in Hollywood are liberal and that there are enough liberals out there to give them their ratings.

*Makin' It in the Middle*: of all the shows that have premiered in the past year, this one is by far the funniest. It deals with the misadventures of a boy genius and his strict mother, wacky father, dimwitted and mean older brother, and his space cadet little brother. Most every character in this show will have you delighted.

*The Simpsons*: Sadly, while this show has probably been proven as the best ever in its prime, it has become stale for the last couple seasons. While earlier episodes were blizzards of hilarious jokes, the more recent ones average about 2 good jokes an episode. The saddest part of this is, while other cartoonists would put their souls to sleep once they get dull, Matt Groening almost reflexively starts another! *Saturday Night Live*: after the golden age of SNL, when they had Chris Farley,

Mike Meyers, etc., this show ranged from too boring to enjoy to too tastelessly lewd to enjoy—until they really got going with that political stuff. Daryl Hammond, as anyone would say, is perfect for Slick Willy and the Internet. (It's for the guys!) who play Dobyn and Janet Reno. Best line: "It's Reno Time!" Despite the unsurpassed political jokes however, this show will fade in other departments.

### Comic Strips

*Dilbert*: this show began as a really funny strip about a guy who invents stuff and who has a dog who dreams of world domination. Then it was a really funny strip about a guy struggling to survive in Corporate America. Unfortunately, you can only hear so many jokes about that subject. This strip needs to be put out of its misery—this second.

*Close to Home*: funny strip, but it's Gallagher compared to its predecessor, *The Far Side*.

Award: 3 Best Comic Strips: *Cahin and Hollies*, *Far Side*, *Deenshory* (70's & 80's)

### Music

Best Group: Queen (I'll be old

fashioned)

Best CD Album Cover: *Running with Scissors* (Weird Al)

Most Overrated "Song": Even "Who Let the Dogs Out"

Worst Lyrics: The nonsensical and irrelevant lyrics of the M-2 theme. Best Line in a Horror Song: "This is my year. Word to Dobynah." ("Viva Viva Baby" Paul Shanklin)

### Scary Thought Awards

Carpooling from a party with George W. Bush and Teddy Kennedy

Being Hillary Clinton and trying to put up with Bill

Vice Versa

New Bionics

People causing 5-potterers with baw systems in their cars

Trying to ring someone in Switzerland

The Baja Men singing the National Anthem at a football game.

New Camera Views that only give NFL games a fake cinematic effect

### Mystery Awards

Liberal Logic

"Ho Hate Me", the enigmatic/maelstrom seen on the back of an NFL player's jersey.